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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/729,698 | 12/05/2003 | Virginia Tarpinian | 2595U.001 | 4597 |

21917 7590 05/31/2005

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| EXAMINER |
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WILLIAMS, MARK A

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3676

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/729,698

Applicant(s)

TARPINIAN ET AL.

Examiner

Mark A. Williams

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/28/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10 and 12-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10, and 12-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 12, 14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelley, US Patent 4,754,379, in view of Kreutzer, US Patent 4,402,542, and in further view of Delorenzo, US Patent 6,415,732. Kelly teaches the general concept of a device for strapping a handle to an object of a cylindrical shape, such a piling (or post). Kelly teaches each of the claimed limitations except for (1) a base member constructed of flexible material, and (2) the handle including a photo luminescent material, as claimed.

Regarding (1), Kreutzer teaches the concept of a base member 2 meeting the claimed limitations, for the purpose of providing a snug fit retention of a strapped object. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art of have included in the design of Kelly such a modification, for

the purpose of providing a snug fit retention of a strapped object. The claimed method is inherent to the design.

Regarding (2), Delorenzo teaches the concept of a handle rail of photo luminescent material (an light stick 20), for the purpose of being visible in the dark. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to include such a modification in the device of Kelly, similarly to that taught in Delorenzo, for the purpose of allowing the handle to be visible in the dark.

3. Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly in view of Kreutzer in further view of Uccellini, US Patent 4,226,349. The combination does not explicitly teach wood engaging means as claimed. Such means for engaging wood are well known in the art for prevention of slippage. Uccellini teaches this concept. It would have been obvious at the invention was made for one skilled in the art to have included such a modification in the design of the combination, for the purpose of preventing slippage.

4. Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly in view of Kreutzer. The combination does not explicitly teach the

handle and the base member being of wood material. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have done this, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. See also *Ballas Liquidating Co. v. Allied industries of Kansas, Inc.* (DC Kans) 205 USPQ 331. Such a modification is not critical to the design and would have produced no unexpected results.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 10, and 12-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. After careful reconsideration, it has been determined that the allowable subject matter of the first Office Action has been withdrawn in light of new art.

Conclusion

This action is non-final.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Williams whose telephone number is


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Art Unit: 3676

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(703) 305-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark Williams
5/26/05 


Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner